Morphology Control of Metal Oxide Particles for Multifunctional Cosmetic Application

Tsugio Sato^{a*}, Mizuki Yoshida^a, Shu Yin^a, Takehiro Goto^b, Takumi Tanaka^b ¹Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials, Tohoku University, Sendai 980-8577, Japan ² Daito Kase Kogyo Co. LTD., Osaka 535-0005, Japan *tsusato@tagen.tohoku.ac.jp

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Metal oxides have been used as various functional materials, such as electronics, pigments, UV-shielding materials, etc. The morphology controlled particles of CeO₂, ZnO, $K_{0.80}(Li_{0.27}Ti_{1.73})O_4$ and Al_2O_3 were fabricated by solvothermal reactions in order to realize multifunction, such as UV-shielding, comfort, glossing, soft-focusing, etc. for cosmetic application.

The nanoparticles of Ca^{2+} doped CeO_2 were prepared by the coprecipitation reaction of Ce^{3+} and Ca^{2+} at room temperature followed by the oxidation with H₂O₂. Plate-like microparticles of CeO₂ were prepared by the reaction of Ce(NO₃)₃ and NaHCO₃ at room temperature followed by calcination in air. The plate-like microparticles of K_{0.80}(Li_{0.27}Ti_{1.73})O₄ were fabricated by flux method using a KCl flux. The plate-like microparticles of Al₂O₃ were prepared by the reaction of Al(NO₃)₃ and NaHCO₃ aqueous solutions around 240°C. The morphology controlled ZnO, such as plate-like, rod-like, star-like and spherical ones were formed by solvothermal reactions using Zn(NO₃)₂ and various alkalis and surface modifiers, such as hexamethylenetetramine, monoethanolamine, triethanolamine, ethylene glycol, Fe³⁺, etc. around 80°C.

The nanoparticles of Ca^{2+} doped CeO_2 showed excellent UV-shielding ability with the low oxidation catalytic activity. The plate-like microparticles of $K_{0.80}(Li_{0.27}Ti_{1.73})O_4$ showed excellent comfort and gloss as well as UV-shielding ability. Coating CeO_2 nanoparticles on plate-like microparticles of $K_{0.80}(Li_{0.27}Ti_{1.73})O_4$ was useful to improve the comfort without loss of the UV-shielding ability. The plate-like microparticles of CeO_2 and Al_2O_3 also showed nice comfort as well as UV-shielding ability and gloss, respectively. The rod-like and star-like ZnO particles showed excellent soft focus property as well as excellent UV-shielding ability.

These morphology controlled oxide particles may have high potentials for the application to multifunctional cosmetics, such as UV-shielding, comfort, glossing, soft-focusing, etc.